

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009

*Village of Wolcott
6015 New Hartford St.
Wolcott, NY 14590
(Public Water Supply ID#5801245)*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with New York State regulations, the Village of Wolcott will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your drinking water, please contact **Rick Miller, Chief Operator, at (315)-594-2288**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Village Office located at 6015 New Hartford Street, Wolcott, NY.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves 2200 customers and also supplies water to Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority. Our water comes from two sources, Lake Ontario, which is our primary source and is classified as Surface Water and Weager Springs, which is considered a groundwater source under the influence of surface water. The water produced from the Lake Ontario source is treated at our Water Filtration facility located on East Port Bay Road, in the Town of Wolcott. The water is filtered, disinfected by injection of chlorine gas, and then fluoride is added before it is pumped into the Distribution System. The water produced from the Weager Spring site is chlorinated with Sodium Hypochlorite and Fluoride is added before entering the Distribution System. The state Department of Health has completed its Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for our sources.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: 12 inorganic compounds, 46 synthetic organic compounds, nitrate, nitrites, lead, copper total trihalomethanes, and 56 volatile organic compounds. In addition we test the water for coliform bacteria twice a month. Daily testing includes Fluoride, PH, Chlorine residual, and Turbidity.

The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department at 315-789-3030.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. None of the compounds we analyzed for were detected in your drinking water.

AWQR Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg/Max Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination

A. Microbiological Contaminants

Turbidity	N	2009	0.17	NTU	0	1.0	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	N	2009	0.17	NTU	0	5.0	Soil Runoff
Coliform	N	2009	None	Presence	0	0.0	

B. Inorganic Contaminants

LAKE

Barium	N	Aug-09	0.024	MG/L	0	2.0	
Chromium	N	Aug-09	<.5	MG/L	0	0.1	
FL	N	Aug-09	1.1	MG/L	0	2.2	
Nitrate	N	Aug-09	0.39	MG/L	0	10.0	

WELL

Barium	N	Aug-09	0.2	MG/L	0	2.0	
Chromium	N	Aug-09	<.5	MG/L	0	0.1	
FL	N	Aug-09	1	MG/L	0	2.2	
Nitrate	N	Aug-09	0.96	MG/L	0	10.0	
Lead	N	2009	0.002	UG/L	0	15(ac)	
Copper	N	2009	0.029	MG/L	0	1.3(ac)	

C. Organic Contaminants

D. Disinfection Byproducts

TTHM	N	2009	23 (8.4-40)	UG/L	0	80.0
HAA5	N	2009	8.2 (0-18)	UG/L	0	60.0
TTHM Stg 2	N	2009	25 (8.2-38)	UG/L	0	
HAA5 Stg 2	N	2009	11(2.2-18)	UG/L	0	

E. Radiologic

ALPHA	N	2005	1.1	PCI/L		
BETA	N	2005	2.5	PCI/L		
R226						
Lake	N	2008	0.00-0.08			
Well	N	2008	0.05-0.20			
R228						
Lake	N	2008				
Well	N	2008				

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at two of the 10 sites tested.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2009 we had a monitoring violation. The Village of Wolcott is required to monitor your drinking water for contaminants on a regular basis. Results of the regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During July 1- September 30 of 2009 we did not monitor or test for TTHM/HAA5 and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at that time.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. **It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks.** Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Center for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range from 0.8 to 1.2 mg/l (parts per million). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2009 monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 95% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at 315-594-2288 with any questions or the New York State Department of Health at 315-789-3030.